



Word From The Center - Patriotism

By Kapil Gupta

In the U.S., the idea of “patriotism” evokes warm sentiments associated with the love of country, ranging from Revolutionary War pride (our defeat of Britain to gain independence) to almost clichéd aspects of American culture: apple pie, traditional motherhood, baseball games, and marching band parades down Main St. Google search images for patriotism and you will find photo montages featuring symbolism: bald eagles (the American national bird, featured on our great seal) and many images of the American flag, “Old Glory.” Patriotism is a catch-all concept that evokes the national cultural average, the common mean that connects people in self identification as a united nation.

The challenge with defining patriotism in America is reconciling competing social forces: the centripetal pull to uniformity in defining what is American is balanced against the centrifugal forces of freedom and national diversity. Two quotations exhibit the latter part of the dichotomy. From the political left, Howard Zinn’s succinctly said: “Dissent is the highest form of patriotism.” In a similar vein, African-American public intellectual James A. Baldwin wrote “I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”

Abroad, the concept of American patriotism can invoke mixed opinions. It seems too often to be the case that one’s own patriotism is always a positive thing while the patriotism of other people for a different country is not always equally understood – if not seen as hostile. Thus, patriotism in its worst forms can be a mental straightjacket -- sustaining prejudice toward other peoples and blindness toward one’s own faults. Thus the importance of people-to-people connections in modern diplomacy: while nations may have political differences, on a personal level individuals can relate to each other as fellow humans, sharing similar dreams for the future. A great example of this is the work of the American NGO “Seeds for Peace” which brings together youth from conflicting communities to change biases through structured environments for deep mutual

understanding: <http://www.seedsofpeace.org/>

In today’s increasingly globalized world, the key question is what does it mean to be patriotic while being a citizen of the world? Is there space for a broader patriotism to the nation of humanity? I conclude with a wry comment from Voltaire: “It is lamentable, that to be a good patriot one must become the enemy of the rest of mankind.”

Sincerely,

Kapil Gupta
Information Officer

Visit us at Phoenix Market City Mall in Kurla on Sunday, July 8 from 10am - 9pm for fun-filled Fourth of July activities! Win prizes, take part in an ice-cream eating contest, have your photo taken with Uncle Sam, and much more!

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE 4th



The story of our nation's founding is filled with larger-than-life personalities and fascinating

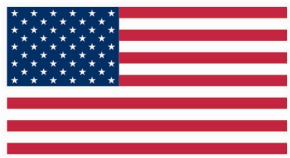
events. Try taking one of these fun, short quizzes to test your knowledge of July Fourth — then and now. Choose from one of these categories: [History Buffs](#), [Music Lovers](#) or [Kids of All Ages](#) - [Click here](#) to get started.

The American Center

C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051 Tel: 022-2672-4024
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

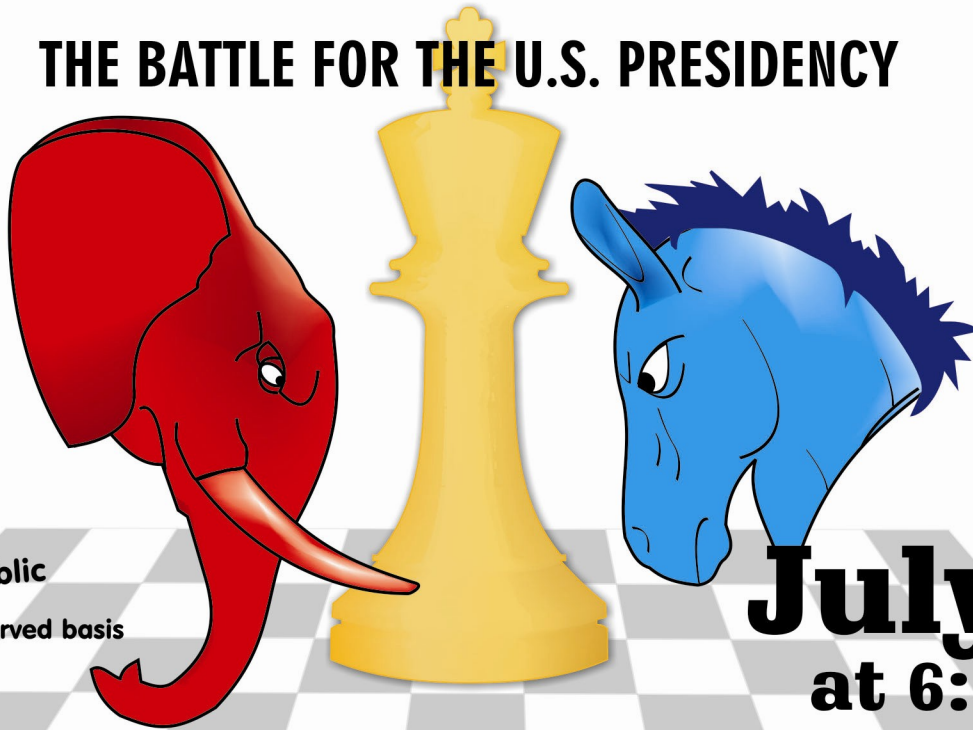
July 4 - Independence Day



invites you to a Digital Video Discussion on

ELECTION STRATEGIES

THE BATTLE FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENCY



Free
and open to the public
on a first-come, first-served basis

Thursday
July 12 2012
at 6:30 p.m.

featuring (via digital video conference)

Anne W. Stone

Founder and President
The Stone Group Inc., USA

James A. Thurber

University Distinguished Professor of Government
and Founder Director of the Center for Congressional
and Presidential Studies at American University, Washington, D.C., USA

in conversation with

Devendra Fadnavis

Member of Legislative Assembly
Government of Maharashtra

Anish Shetty

All-India Chairman, Central Election Authority
National Students' Union of India

Do you want to know how Presidential elections are planned and won in the world's oldest democracy? How the masses and interest groups are reached, resources mobilized, and votes bagged? What strategies political parties use to win over the diverse ethnic, religious, and socio-cultural groups in the U.S.? To find answer to these, and many more such questions, please join us for an intriguing discussion on July 12.

Venue:

U.S. Consulate General

C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

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Lady Liberty: 125 Years as Icon of Freedom



The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was dedicated over 125 years ago.

“Over the years, the meanings of the [Statue of Liberty] have grown until she has become an international icon of freedom and liberty, the most

recognizable symbol of democracy in the world,” says the National Park Service, which has responsibility for both the statue and Ellis Island.

The 93-meter-high copper beauty was a gift from the people of France in 1886, in recognition of the friendship established during the American Revolution. Completed in France in 1884, the statue was disassembled, shipped to New York, and reassembled. On October 28, 1886, it was dedicated in front of thousands of cheering spectators.

The idea of the statue originated around 1865 with Édouard de Laboulaye, a French law professor, politician and writer who wanted to foster the bond between the United States and France with a monument dedicated to their shared ideals of freedom and independence.

Artist Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, who was known for large-scale work, was commissioned to design the sculpture. Bartholdi traveled to the United States to look for a location for the monument and decided on a small island in New York Harbor called Bedloe’s Island (renamed Liberty Island in 1956).

Since the statue was a joint effort between America and France, it was agreed that the American people would build the pedestal while the French people would be responsible for the statue and assembly. In France, funds came in from city governments, sales of miniature

statues, a lottery, and contributions from French school children and others. Some 2 million francs were raised (about \$400,000 in U.S. dollars of the time). But fundraising was more difficult in the United States. Publisher Joseph Pulitzer stepped in and started a drive for donations using his newspaper the New York World. He printed the names of every donor, including school children who donated pennies. The fund drive drew more than 120,000 contributions, most of them less than a dollar; thus Americans were able to contribute about \$250,000 for the statue’s pedestal.

Bartholdi fashioned the statue — whose full name is “Liberty Enlightening the World” — from copper hammered out until it was just 2.4 millimeters thick. French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel (designer of the Eiffel Tower) built a skeleton for the statue, designed so that the statue’s copper skin moves independently yet can stand upright. This flexibility allows the statue to sway in the harbor winds.

The statue, often called Lady Liberty, is 93 meters from the base of the pedestal to the tip of the torch. From her heel to the top of her head, she is 34 meters. Over the years the copper has turned green because of a chemical reaction called patination.

The United Nations designated the Statue of Liberty as a World Heritage Site in 1984. The statue was closed for a two-year restoration project and reopened in 1986, in time for her 100th birthday. During that project, the new torch was carefully covered with thin sheets of 24k gold. Visitors are able to climb to the top of the pedestal and the crown in recent years by making a reservation.

The Statue of Liberty welcomed more than 12 million immigrants who entered the United States through the federal immigration station on nearby Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954. The old immigration station is now a museum. Ferries take visitors to both Ellis Island and Liberty Island, where the Statue of Liberty stands.

For more information, see the National Park Service’s Statue of Liberty website. Article written by Staff Writer Lousie Fenner on October 26, 2011. Modified for State Department use. (This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/iipdigital-en/index.html>)



Mumbai Mondays

(Theme of the month: Patriotism)

The Indian Diaspora in the United States

By Jason Park

July is the month when Americans proudly celebrate their independence and patriotism. When Americans look back at their history, they see a nation built by immigrants from all over the world and shaped by their respective cultures. In the US, the Indian-American population is one of the fastest growing ethnic groups. But what exactly does the Indian Diaspora look like in the US and where did it begin? Indians are one of the largest ethnic groups immigrating to the US, but that fact often obscures the diversity and complexity of the movement. Come and join an engaging discussion with a consular officer at the US Consulate on how Indian-Americans have helped define the American identity.



Jason Park is a Foreign Service Officer serving at the US Consulate General in Mumbai. Born in New York to Korean immigrants, he studied East Asian Studies and International Relations at Johns Hopkins University before representing America as part of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Before joining the State Department, he interned at the Permanent Korean Mission to the United Nations in New York on the Economic and Development Team. He is eternally grateful to the Indian-American community for introducing him to Indian cuisine.

Venue:

U.S. Consulate General,
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,
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July 16 2012
at 6:00 p.m.

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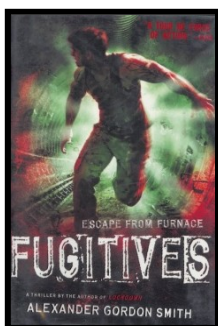
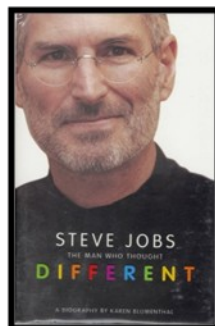
New Books for our Young Readers:

[Click Here](#) for list of new books for young adults

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different, A Biography by Karen Blumenthal. Feiwel and Friends, New York, 2012.

The book chronicles Jobs's boyhood passions for technology, simplicity, and design that led to his rocky tenures with the technology company he helped create, was fired from, and returned to and led to the heights of its success. Critically acclaimed author

Karen Blumenthal takes us to the core of this complicated and legendary man while simultaneously exploring the evolution of computers.

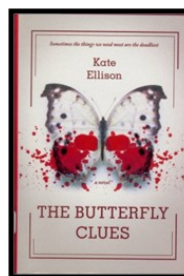
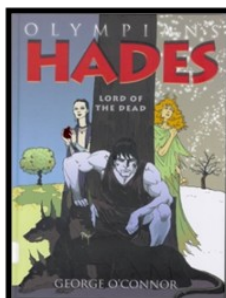


Fugitives: Escape from Furnace 4 by Alexander Gordon Smith. Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 2010.

Alex and the other inmates of Furnace penitentiary have finally escaped, but the Warden's beastly army hunts them down—and aims to conquer the world.

Hades: Lord of the Dead by George O'Connor. A Neal Porter Book, New York, 2012

Hades is the fourth book in Olympians, a graphic novel series that retells the Greek Myths. The book tells the story of the great God of the underworld and one of the most famous of all Greek myths: Hades' abduction of Persephone and her mother's revenge.



The Butterfly Clues by Kate Ellison. Egmont USA, New York, 2012.

Kate Ellison's debut novel is a tour de force thriller about a girl whose obsessive – compulsive collecting leads her down a dangerous path of secrets, mystery, and murder – where every clue she uncovers could be her

last.

eLibraryUSA databases

Access online range of resources on at <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>

Teen Health and Wellness

Teen Health & Wellness

real life • real answers

This database from eLibraryUSA provides teenagers and preteens with straightforward information about such topics as diseases, drugs and alcohol, nutrition, mental health, personal finances and more. Thoroughly updated and revised for online use, all content is reviewed by leading professionals in medicine, mental health, nutrition, guidance, and career counseling.

Alumni Highlights



IVLP alumnus, Biplab Paul, is shown receiving the Anil Shah Gram Vikas Paritoshik (Mr. Anil Shah Memorial Award for outstanding work in Rural Development).

The prestigious award is for

Mr. Paul's innovative work on controlling soil salinity as well as supporting farmers through new irrigation technologies, thereby significantly increasing their income.

If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to mum-baipublicaffairs@state.gov. You could be featured in future e-bulletins!

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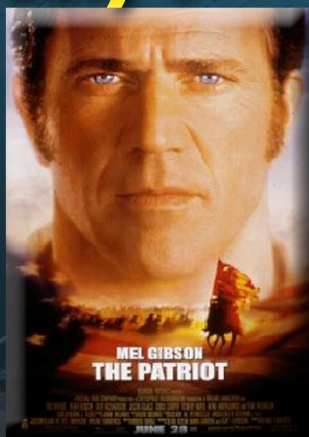
Celebration of 236th anniversary of the
Independence of the United States of America



Saturday Film Screenings

(Theme of the month: Patriotism)

July 7

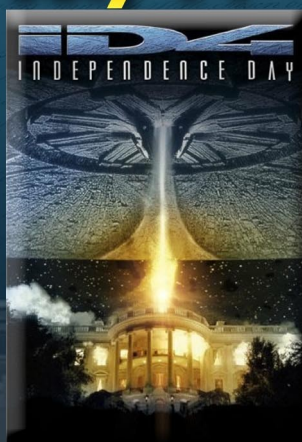


The Patriot

(2006, 165 min)

Mel Gibson is Benjamin Martin, the legendary "Hero of Fort Wilderness" who has left military life to raise his family on his South Carolina farm in 1776. But after a British commander torches his home and kills one of his sons, Gibson joins with oldest son Heath Ledger to lead a ragtag militia against the Redcoats.

July 14



Independence Day

(1996, 145 min)

Who will save the Earth after huge alien spacecrafts demolish the Empire State Building, the White House, downtown Los Angeles and most of the world's major cities? How about brave pilot Will Smith, satellite specialist Jeff Goldblum and U.S. President Bill Pullman?

July 21

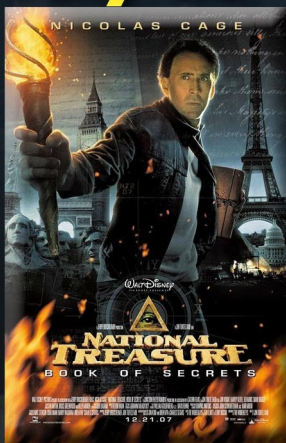


National Treasure

(2004, 131 min)

Benjamin Franklin Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who've all hunted for the same thing: a war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers after the Revolutionary War. Ben's close to discovering its whereabouts, as is his competition, but the FBI is also hip to the hunt.

July 28



National Treasure: Book of Secrets

(2007, 124 min)

Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates looks to discover the truth behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, by uncovering the mystery within the 18 pages missing from assassin John Wilkes Booth's diary.

Venue:

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Screening will start at 2:30 p.m.



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